

CDA Workgroup Meeting
October 30, 2003

FS: Linda McFaddan, Joe Stringer, Gary Ford, Suzanne Burnside (notes)

Attending: Elton Turcotte, Dave Vig, Tom Crimmins, Al Beauchenie, Joe Close, Dale Lewis, Priscilla Reynolds, Mike Reynolds, Dave Vig, Don Reynolds, Steve Peak, Wilfred Schoeberger, Bill Alexander, Richard Lambert, Allenta Lambert, Harold Methan, Dayna Smith, Alan Dragoo, Rob Osmun, Bill White, Tim Wendell, Don Hull, Bruce Colwell, Troy Elmore, Jeff Hildesheim, John Denison, Doug Kidd, Jim Byler, Rick Junkin, Kevin Price, Jeff Baker, Jim Schneider, John Latta, Mike Wirth, Jackie McAvoy, Larry Ellifritz, Les Pattee, Steve Gonzales, Charlie Gonzales, Tim Wirth, Dave Ricard, Jack Wirth, and Rick Schroeder

Joe shared ground rules for the meeting and agenda.

Goal is to have one workgroup for the CDA basin which would include both the Silver Valley and Coeur d'Alene area.

Joe shared what a Forest Plan does do and what it doesn't do. It provides the operating plan for the Forest. It is a broad based directional document – not site specific to an individual trail or road, but provides direction.

Question asked about road closures on the CDA River ranger district. Joe shared that the district prepared a comprehensive travel plan that covers both the Silverton and CDA areas. The district took public comments on the proposed travel plan. Currently the district is in litigation over the travel plan by a group who opposes opening roads.

Question asked about taking inventory on roads. Joe explained that we take inventories on all roads to determine if the culverts are functioning, etc.

Linda talked about the purpose of the workgroups and the focus of them. Revision topics: Vegetation, fire risk, timber, wildlife, watershed and aquatic species, IRA's and proposed wilderness, access and recreation. Linda encouraged the group to not focus on individual roads and trails, but take a bigger look at the forest and CDA Geographic Area as a whole.

Purpose of the workgroup is to work together to come up with the desired future condition of the CDA basin. Goal is to work together to learn about the workgroup's interests and understand the complexities of decision-making. Develop and enhance relationships. Workgroups are not required by law but we are using them to help us come to more sound decisions.

Gary expressed what a departure the workgroup concept is from developing past plans. Our goal is to hear what the public has to say and involve them early and throughout the planning process. Gary encouraged the group that they need to look at each issue and how they fit together and are integrated.

Question asked about what if the workgroup spends months working on something and then the Forest Service doesn't consider their input. Gary explained the process should work to incorporate and consider their input. We also need to consider legal requirements and if it does that, then it will be

looked at very strongly. This is a good faith effort on our part to engage the public and have them understand the process.

Tom Crimmins briefly explained the Blue Ribbon Coalition and NW Access Alliance's intervention to the Lands Council access lawsuit against the Forest Service.

Linda talked about how the workgroup could develop an alternative and how it would be considered via public comment.

A workgroup needs to be diverse, representing all areas. The Forest Plan manages on a multiple-use basis.

Point made that we are fortunate to not have had disastrous fires this summer and we need to take some type of action in terms of timber sales and fuels reduction. Joe shared that comments such as these are the types of issues that the workgroup will work through.

Concern was expressed about the way the process (workgroup) is evolving and the concern about the lack of participation from the Spokane area. He is also very concerned about the unbalance of the representation from other interested groups at the meeting. He stated that of the 50 people here, over 30 of them are motorized users. Others stated the need for diversity in the workgroups.

The Forest Service would work with the group to provide an understanding of the process, maps, expert information and other tools, but will not run the meeting. Process needs to be efficient in order for it to be beneficial.

Joe encouraged the group to sign up to be part of the workgroup if they were interested. The Forest Service will look at the sign up sheets and determine the best day to set a meeting. Meeting will most likely occur in about 2 weeks and may be held at the Snake Pit in Enaville or somewhere between CDA and Wallace.